

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF
MEALYBUG PARASITE FROM PARAGUAY
(HYMENOPTERA:ENCYRTIDAE)¹

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The following descriptions are given at this time in order to make the names available for other publications.

Paraplatycerus NEW GENUS

Closely related to *Chrysoplatycerus* Ashmead and *Zaplatycerus* Timberlake. From both genera *Paraplatycerus* may be rather easily recognized by the raised and sharply ridged scutellum without a posterior tuft of hair and by the tridentate mandibles. The abdomen, antennae and wing venation are like that found in *Chrysoplatycerus*.

Female.—Head from above broadly menisciform, wider than thorax; face with a deep, semicircular scrobal impression which is sharply margined above. Head when viewed anteriorly much broader than high, laterally much higher than long. Occipital margin acutely margined above, rounded on lower two-thirds. Eyes hemispherical not reaching occipital or scrobal margins, inner orbits only slightly diverging anteriorly; fronto-vertex nearly three times longer than wide as measured from occipital margin to scrobal margin; width at anterior ocellus one-fourth width of head. Ocelli arranged in an equilateral triangle, posterior pair of ocelli nearly touching eye margin but nearly twice their diameter from occipital margin. Gena at its widest point as wide as eye, genal suture weak but distinct. Face convex; oral margin arched; carina surrounding scrobal depression extends downward to just below opposite antennal sockets. Antennae widely separated, distance less than width of scape. Mandible long and narrow, tridentate, middle tooth longest. Antennae strongly laterally compressed, scape swollen, as long as flagellum and club combined, two-thirds longer than wide, apex rounded, base to antennal socket subtruncate, upper margin folded over and flattened; pedicel as wide as long, longer than any of following flagellar segments, flattened dorsally as in scape; funicle six segmented, all segments wider than long, first three saucer shaped, last three more rectangular, flagellum enlarged from base to apex; club solid, at most a single annulus visible, nearly equal in length to flagellum, wider than last flagellar segment.

Pronotum narrow, nearly concealed, Mesonotum flat, carinate anteriorly and laterally, side vertically depressed then sloping outward to form a triangular flange-like plate; axillae not medially separated, tips touching, elevated but not above scutellum. Scutellum broadly diamond-shaped, strongly convex and sharply ridged along mid-line,

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at most two strong setae at apex; metanotum depressed, reduced to a narrow plate three times longer than wide; propodeal spiracle large, circular. Abdomen short, narrower than thorax, tapering to truncate apex; ovipositor not exerted. Legs comparatively thick and short. Wing as in *Chrysoplatycerus*, stigmal vein at most only slightly longer than postmarginal vein, gently curved; a patch of coarse setae below apex of marginal vein.

Male.—Unlike the female. Face convexly swollen. Eyes pilose. Antennae nine segmented, uniformly thickened throughout with at most only a few short, inconspicuous setae; scape but little swollen. Mesonotum convex, not margined; axillae rounded but not elevated; scutellum convex, not as strong as in female, without a median ridge. Wing hyaline, stigmal vein much longer than post marginal vein. Abdomen much shorter than thorax.

Type species.—*Paraplatycerus citriculus* n. sp., present designation.

Paraplatycerus citriculus NEW SPECIES

Female.—General color dull flavotestaceous. Antennae fuscous, flattened dorsal portion of scape shining; genae black on upper half; anterior margin of mesonotum dusky, depressed sides shining metallic blue-green; scutellum shining metallic greenish-blue; abdomen fuscous; coxae and femora dusky flavotestaceous more or less margined with black, fore and mid tibiae dusky on basal half or more, hind tibia completely dusky, nearly as dark as abdomen; fore and mid tarsi dusky flavotestaceous, hind tarsi white except for black basal half of first segment and all of terminal segment; side of propodeum shiny metallic green, in some lights. Setae where present black.

Front with coarse, close-set, circular punctures extending to margin of scrobe; face and genae smooth. Mesonotum granular, without distinct punctures. Scutellum smooth; anterior declivity of axillae minutely punctiform. Antennae as figured.

Costal cell wide, tapering to narrow apex, margin excised at apex of marginal vein; apex of wing broadly rounded; marginal vein with eight to ten bristles, short row of heavy bristles below apex of marginal vein. Wing brown, base hyaline, uniformly ciliated, cilia shorter on apical one-third, see figure.

Male.—Black, lower half or less of front, genae, face subshining bluish-green in some lights. Scape testaceous. Legs fuscous, trochanters, tips of femora, base of tibiae, all of tarsi except last segment white to pale testaceous. Antennae as figured. Setae black more numerous on mesonotum and scutellum than in female. Wing hyaline, cilia confined to margins and along veins; stigmal and postmarginal veins short.

Holotype reared from mummies of *Pseudococcus citriculus* Green collected from citrus at Asuncion, Paraguay, II-9-72 (M. Rose). In collection of University of California at Riverside.

Described from four females and five males all from the same collection.

Paraplatycerus citriculus is currently being mass produced at the California State Department of Agriculture temporary insectary facilities at Porterville, California for release against the comstock mealybug, *Pseudococcus comstocki* (Kuwana) in that area.

ABSTRACT:—One new genus *Paraplatycerus* and a new species *citriculus* are described from Paraguay. Specimens were reared from *Pseudococcus citriculus*. *Paraplatycerus* is compared with and separate from *Chrysoplatycerus* and *Zaplatycerus*.—Jack C. Hall, Division of Biological Control, University of California, Riverside, CA 92502.

Descriptors: Hymenoptera: Cencyrtidae: *Paraplatycerus*, new genus; *citriculus*, new species; Paraguay. Host, *Pseudococcus citriculus*.